

Message Text

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FOR FR US

SUBJECT :FRENCH PRESS REACTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF
FORD GISCARD MEETING

1. FOLLOWING IS FRENCH PRESS REACTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT
OF FORD GISCARD MEETING:

2. MICHEL GARIBAL IN LES ECHOS : "WITH THE UNITED STATES'
FRANCE WILL ADOPT THE 'YES BUT' STYLE...THE RANGE OF
MATTERS IN DISPUTE BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE US IS NO LONGER
LONGER WHAT IT FORMERLY WAS. IN MOST FIELDS, A RAPPRO-
CHEMENT HAS TAKEN PLACE, WHICH DOES NOT MEAN AN ALIGH-
MENT OF FRENCH POLICY WITH THE UNITED STATES...TWO PRO-
BLEMS AT LEAST WILL REQUIRE CLOSE DISCUSSIONS; THE COM-
PETITION IN THE AERONAUTICAL FIELD, BETWEEN THE DASSAULT-
MIRAGE AND THE AMERICAN PLANS OF NORTHROP AND GENERAL
DYNAMICS, FOR THE SALE OF 350 PLANES INTENDED TO MODER-
NIZE THE NATO AIR FORCE...THE EC COMMON AGRICULTURAL
POLICY ALSO REMAINS ONE OF AMERICA'S PET AVERSIONS."
ROLAND FAURE IN AUREORE: "THE THAW IN FRANCO-AMERICAN
RELATIONSMADE NECESSARY BY THE EXCESSIVE POLEMICS WHICH
IN THE END OF GEORGES POMPIDOU'S TERM HAD JEOPARDIZED
THE JOBERT-KISSINGER DIALOGUE, HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY PUR-
SUED SINCE VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING'S ELECTION...THE
ENERGY CRISIS AND THE ECOROMIC UPHEAVALS WHICH IT
ENTAILS WITHOUT ANY DOUBT WILL BE THE MAJOR TOPIC
FOR THE TWO PRESIDENTS...A HARMONIZING OF POLICIES AND
STRATEGIES APPEARS SO INDISPENSABLE FOR OUR INDUSTRIAL
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SOCIETY ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC THAT

IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE THAT THE MEETING OF THE TWO STATESMEN MIGHT END IN DISCORD."

3. EDMOND BERGHEAUD IN FRANCE SOIR: "REGARDLESS OF THE NEW TURN TAKEN BY FRANCO-US RELATIONS, FUNDAMENTAL DIVERGENCIES REMAIN. FRANCE REMAINS A FULL-FLEDGED MEMBER OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, BUT SHE DOES NOT INTEND TO JOIN NATO AGAIN. THE ENERGY CRISIS WILL TAKE A LARGE PLACE IN THE GISCARD-FORD TALKS. BUT WHEREAS THE UNITED STATES IS HOPING FOR THE FORMATION OF A FRONT OF CONSUMERS, FRANCE HAS STATED THROUGH MR.SAUVAGNARGUES: 'THE AFFIRMATION OF SOME SOLIDARITY AMONG CONSUMING COUNTRIES SHOULD BE ACCOMPAGNIED IMMEDIATELY WITH THE OFFER OF A DIALOGUE AMONG CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS. PROBLEMS WON'T BE SOLVED BY AN ECONOMIC WAR AND BY FORMATION OF HOSTILE BLOCS'. DIVERGING VIEWS ALSO ON THE MIDDLE EAST. WHILE THE AMERICANS APPROVE OF THE ISRAELI REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE PARIS ON THE CONTRARY BELIEVES THAT THE 'PALESTINIAN FACT' SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. BUT, WHATEVER THE DIFFERENCES, THEY WILL FROM NOW ON BE EXAMINED AMONG 'GOOD ALLIES' WHILE AVOIDING TO ADVERTISE THEM; THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEMS WON'T BE CHANGED, ONLY THE WAY OF SAYING THAT ONE DISAGREES."

4. RICHARD LISCIA IN LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS ON : "WITH OUT ANY DOUBT, THE TALKS WILL DWELL MOSTLY ON THE ENERGY CRISIS: THE AMERICANS ARE VERY RESPECTFUL OF FRANCE SINCE WE DECIDED TO LIMIT TO 5L BILLION FRANCS THE WORTH OF OUR ENERGY IMPORTS...THERE IS THUS A DEFINITE DETENTE IN FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS. BUT INFERRING FROM THIS THAT GISCARD IS YIELDING TO ATLANTICISM WOULD BE GOING A BIT TOO FAST. THE THAW IS ACTUALLY COMING FROM WASHINGTON WHICH HAS NOT BEEN MISTAKEN ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE DECISION TO LIMIT FRENCH PETROLEUM IMPORTS. THE U.S. CONSIDERS IT AS A CHALLENGE TO THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES, WHILE THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TRIES TO MAKE PEOPLE BELIEVE IN A POLICY OF THE EXTENDED HAND TO THE ARABS...BUT IF FRANCE'S DECISION TO LIMIT IMPORTS WAS APPLIED BY ALL THE OIL-CONSUMING COUNTRIES,

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THE EXPORTERS WOULD IPSOFACTO BE CONFRONTED WITH THE COMMON FRONT WHICH FRANCE OFFICIALLY REFUSES TO JOIN. IN THIS SENSE THE VERY KEEN INTEREST OF WASHINGTON IN THE FRENCH ENERGY POLICY CAN ONLY BE EMBARRASSING FOR PARIS. THE EAGERNESS OF THE AMERICANS MIGHT LEAD THEM TO MAKE CONCESSIONS ON OTHER LEVELS. MR. GISCARD D'ESTAING, WHO IS KEEPING AN EYE ON THE NATIONALISTS IN THE COMMUNIST AND GAULLIST PARTIES, IS GOING

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TO TRY TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HE IS MILITATING IN FAVOR OF A REALLY INDEPENDENT EUROPE. THE MOMENT IS FAVORABLE FOR OBTAINING FROM THE UNITED STATES A RELAXATION OF ITS HOLD ON THE COMMUNITY. WASHINGTON, IN FACT, IS WRAPPED IN THE CRISIS AND DOES NOT MANAGE TO RENEW THE DIALOGUE OPENED WITH MOSCOW BY MR. NIXON. THE CANCELLATION OF THE SOVIET-AMERICAN GRAIN CONTRACTS IS MOTIVATED BY STRICTLY ECONOMIC REASONS...BUT THIS CANCELLATION IS BLOCKING THE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE USSR, ESPECIALLY ON THE MAIN LEVEL, THE COMMERCIAL ONE. IN SUCH A CONTEXT THE US PRESIDENT PERHAPS WILL NOT SEE ANY OBJECTION TO A REACTIVATION OF EUROPEAN DIPLOMACY AND TO AN APPROACH OF THE DETENTE BY OTHER WAYS. THE INTEREST CURRENTLY SHOWN FOR FRANCE BY WASHINGTON AUTOMATICALLY GRANTS HER THE EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP, FOR SOME TIME AT LEAST. ANYWAY, PRESIDENT GISCARD'S TIMING IS PERFECT. HE WILL MEET WITH MR. FORD AFTER HAVING SEEN MR. BREZHNEV. HIS PERSONAL ACTION TAKES PLACE AT A DIFFICULT TIME IN MR. KISSINGER'S CAREER. HE ENJOYS IN AMERICA A REPUTATION OF ATLANTICIST WHICH HE DOES NOT CONFIRM BY ANY FORMAL ACT AND EVEN TRIES TO CONTRADICT IN FRANCE. THIS NARROW WAY MAY BE THAT OF SUCCESS."

5. EUROPE ONE BY JEAN-PIERRE JOULIN: "IN THE HEIGHT OF THE FRANCO-US CRISIS LAST FEBRUARY AND MARCH,

THE AMERICANS AND THE FRENCH REALIZED THAT THEY HAD G
GONE TOO FAR. WASHINGTON AND PARIS THEREFORE F
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LOWERED THEIR VOICES. YET, TO PASS FROM THE STATE OF
TENSION TO THAT OF DETENTE, A PRETEXT WAS NEEDED.
THE DISAPPEARANCE OF POMPIDOU AND HIS REPLACEMENT BY
GISCARD FURNISHED IT. THE NEW FRENCH PRESIDENT MADE
IT KNOWN VERY SOON THAT, WITHOUT CHANGING THE BASIC
ELEMENTS OF FRENCH FOREIGN POLICY, HE INTENDED TO
BUILD EUROPE NEITHER AGAINST THE UNITED STATES NOR WITH
IT AND THAT HE FAVORED PERIODICAL FRANCO-US CONVERSATIONS
ON EQUAL FOOTING. EVERYTHING THAT HAD WORRIED THE US --
ESPECIALLY THE ABSENCE OF CONSULTATION -- WAS THUS BOUND
TO DISAPPEAR. MR. NIXON'S RESIGNATION ALSO FACILITATED
GREATLY THE FRANCO-US THAW. EVEN MORE SO SINCE THE NEW
US GOVERNMENT TEAM SAID CLEARLY THAT THEY WERE GOING TO
RENOUNCE A POLICY THAT HAD CAUSED THE CRISIS OF LAST
WINTER -- THAT IS, THAT THE US NO LONGER WANTS TO MAKE
TRANS-ATLANTIC CONSULTATIONS MANDATORY OR TO ASSUME
THE LEADERSHIP OF THE WHOLE WESTERN ECONOMY. LASTLY, THE
WORSENING OF THE ENERGY CRISIS CAUSED A RAPPR-
CHEMENT IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY. FACING THE DANGER,
FRANCE, WITHOUT DRIFTING TOWARD ATLANTICISM, HAS
RESUMED HER PLACE- IN THE MAJOR CONSULTATIONS OF THE
WEST, CONSULTATIONS NATURALLY ORCHESTRATED BY THE U.S."
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